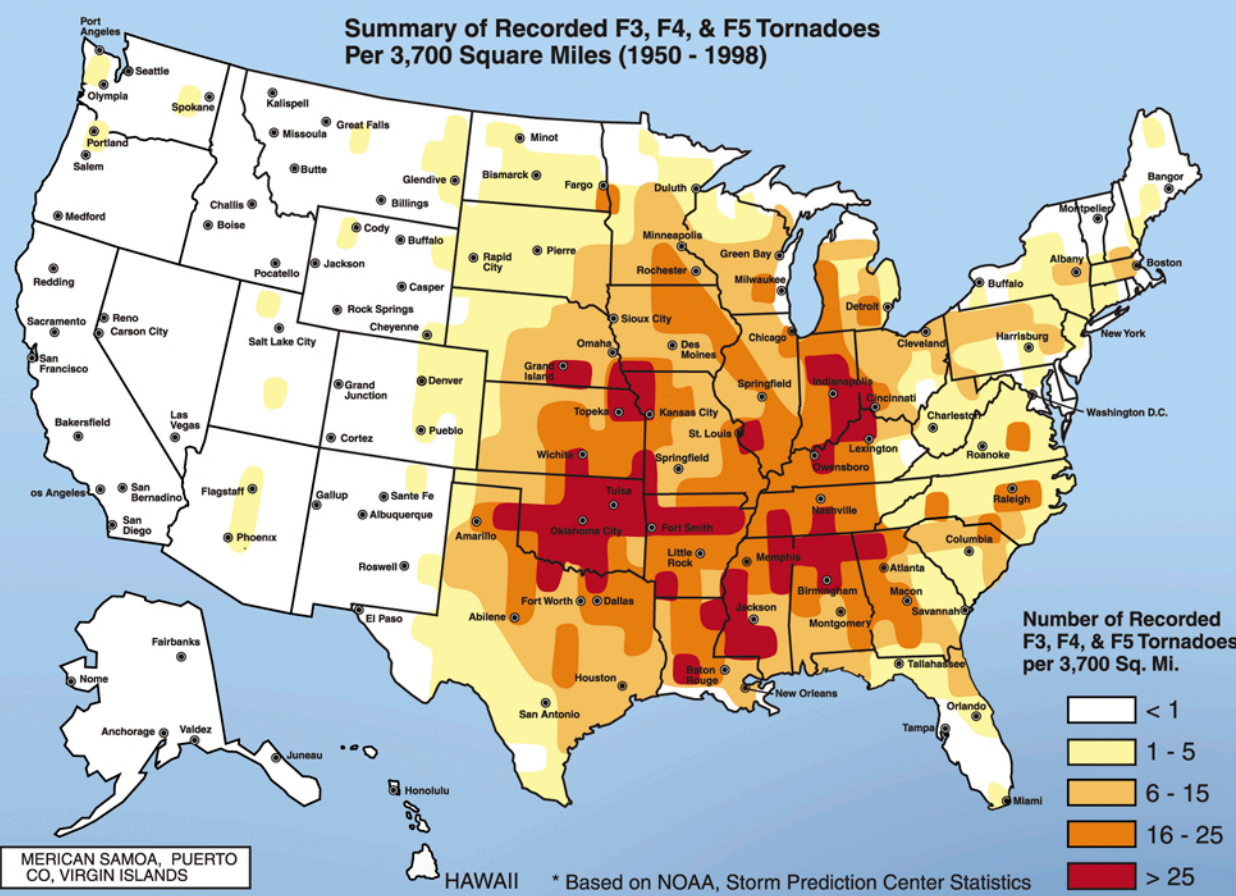


Assessing Your Risk

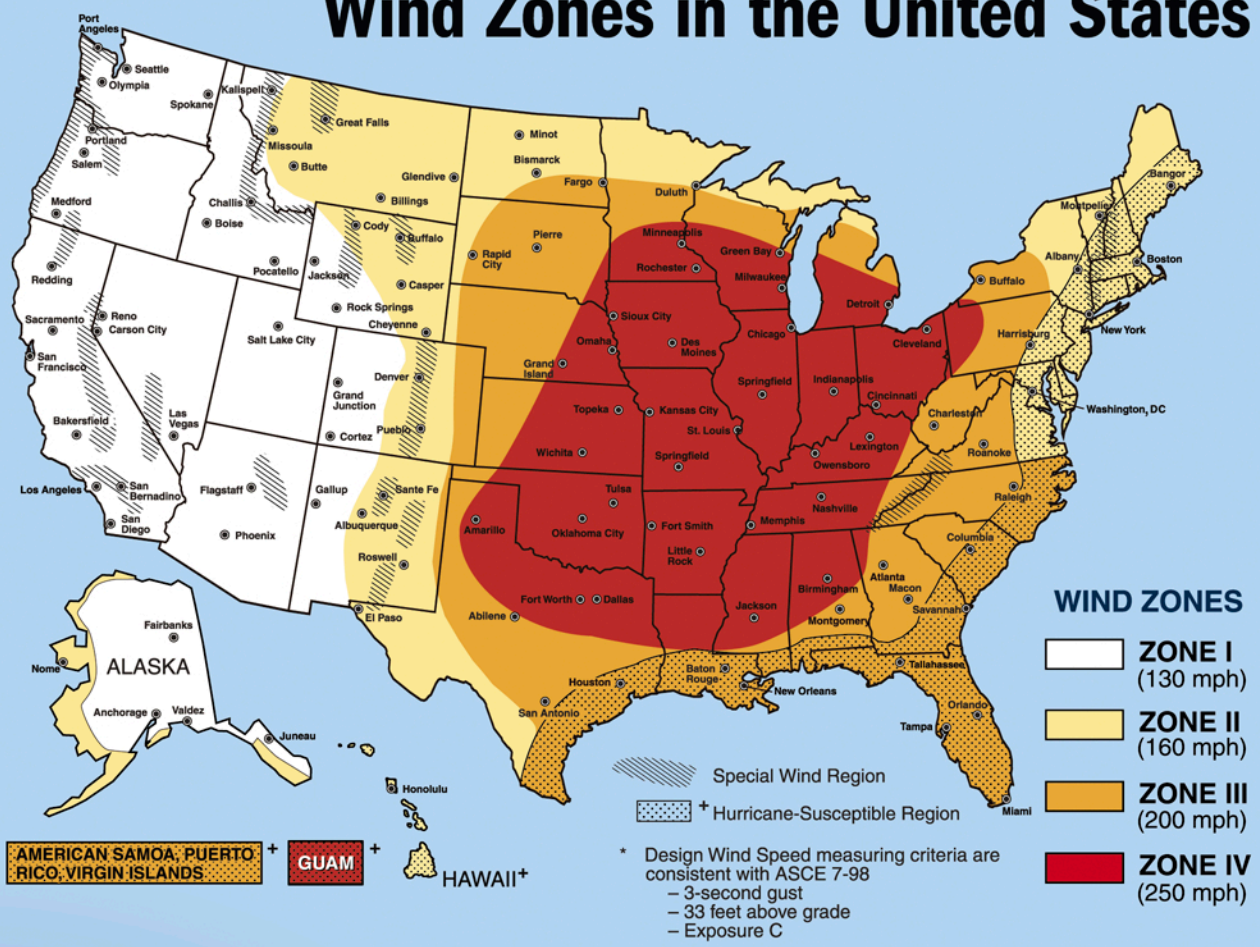
Do You Need a Shelter?

On the basis of 40 years of tornado history and more than 100 years of hurricane history, the United States has been divided into four zones that geographically reflect the number and strength of extreme windstorms. The illustration (right) shows these four zones. Zone IV has experienced the most and strongest tornado activity. Zone III has experienced significant tornado activity and includes coastal areas that are susceptible to hurricanes.

Tornado Activity in the United States*



Wind Zones in the United States*



A tornado or extreme hurricane can cause winds much greater than those on which local code requirements are based.



Managing Risk

Fujita Damage Scale

The threat to property and personal safety can be minimized through compliance with up-to-date building codes and engineering standards.

Property and personal safety can be improved through wind hazard mitigation techniques not normally required by current building codes.

Personal protection can only be achieved through use of a specially designed extreme wind refuge area, shelter, or safe room.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| F0 | Some damage can be seen to poorly maintained roofs. Unsecured lightweight objects, such as trash cans, are displaced. |
| F1 | Minor damage to roofs occurs, and windows are broken. Larger and heavier objects become displaced. Minor damage to trees and landscaping can be observed. |
| F2 | Roofs are damaged. Manufactured homes, on nonpermanent foundations, can be shifted off their foundations. Trees and landscaping either snap or are blown over. Medium-sized debris becomes airborne, damaging other structures. |
| F3 | Roofs and some walls, especially unreinforced masonry, are torn from structures. Small ancillary buildings are often destroyed. Manufactured homes on nonpermanent foundations can be overturned. Some trees are uprooted. |
| F4 | Well constructed homes, as well as manufactured homes, are destroyed. Some structures are lifted off their foundations. Automobile-sized debris is displaced and often tumbles. Trees are often uprooted and blown over. |
| F5 | Strong frame houses and engineered buildings are lifted from their foundations or are significantly damaged or destroyed. Automobile-sized debris is moved significant distances. Trees are uprooted and splintered. |



FEMA